

## **Gulf of Mexico Alliance Underserved and Underrepresented Populations Working Group Conference Call**

**Date 7 February 2008**

**Time: 10:00AM Central (11 am Eastern).**

### **AGENDA**

- Update on the Gulf of Mexico Ocean Literacy Project
- Funding Opportunities for Environmental Education on the Gulf
- Review GOMA Midcourse Review
- Upcoming Conferences
- Confirming call schedule
- Membership
- Ideas for the next calls – ask for needs

### **Conference Call Participants**

1. Greg Ira
2. JoAnn Schmalfuss
3. Richard Gonzales
4. Lee Yokel

### **Update on the Gulf of Mexico Ocean Literacy Project:**

See attached 2nd Quarter Report.

### **Funding Opportunities for Environmental Education on the Gulf**

· NOAA Funding for Gulf Alliance: The Alabama (Environmental Education Lead State for the Gulf Alliance) proposal is being put together by Lee. Some is for Travel, Personnel, and the Public Awareness Campaign. In addition, there will be support to others outside of Alabama in two tiers: 1) some direct funding for major regional initiatives (Science and Spanish Clubs and LIFE-GOMOLP) and 2) funding for state level projects through a competitive grant program. Funding available in October 08 with contracts beginning in early 09.

· NOAA Environmental Literacy Grant: Title: Environmental Literacy Grants for K-12 Education NOAA's Office of Education (OED) is requesting applications for environmental literacy projects in support of K-12 education. Funded projects will be between 1 and 5 years in duration and will promote changes in K-12 education to expand the amount of Earth System Science taught in the classroom and improve student learning and application of that subject. Successful projects will catalyze change in K-12 education through development of new programs and materials and/or revision of existing programs and materials and/or by supporting transformative methods that expand or lead to the expansion of the use of Earth System Science in K-12 classrooms. Successful projects will not just increase knowledge of scientific phenomena but will also provide opportunities for the application of that knowledge to environmental issues relevant to the target audience. Projects are encouraged to incorporate

NOAA data, data visualizations, and resources and to further the use of Earth System Science concepts related to NOAA's mission goals. Projects are also encouraged to collaborate with NOAA entities as partners and/or connect to projects previously funded by NOAA's Environmental Literacy Grants. A list of previously funded projects is available at [www.oesd.noaa.gov/elg\\_projects.html](http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/elg_projects.html). It is anticipated that final recommendations for funding under this announcement will be made by September 15, 2008, and that projects funded under this announcement will have a start date no earlier than November 1, 2008. Pre-proposals are REQUIRED and are due Wednesday, February 20, 2008. Full proposals are due Wednesday, June 25, 2008. Visit [http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/funding\\_opps.html](http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/funding_opps.html) for the full announcement and additional information. This funding opportunity's ID on grants.gov is SEC-OED-2009-2001282.

- B-WET (Experiential Learning) Program to Expand to Gulf of Mexico sometime in March or April: The Bay Watershed Education and Training Programs that exist around the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes and California and Hawaii will be expanding to the Gulf of Mexico. A Funding announcement may be coming soon involving grants from \$10,000 to 100,000. For information on B-WET in California go to: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/bwet/welcome.html>.
- EPA Gulf of Mexico Program (Gulf Alliance): <http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/pdf/gom-alliance-regional-partnership-projects-funding-announcement.pdf>
- USDA Forest Service: More Kids in the Woods II: For more information on this grant opportunity go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2007/speeches/08/kids.shtml>.
- Children and Nature: People who submitted a pre-proposal should hear by end of next week.
- The Diversity Project: The Diversity Project is an NSF funded research opportunity for under-represented minority undergraduate students. In collaboration with Boston University, Old Dominion University, and Duke University, students will integrate hands-on field research in Indonesia, Malaysia, or the Philippines, with cutting edge genetic research. Selected students are fully funded for both living and travel expenses. The deadline for application is January 15, 2008. <http://people.bu.edu/pbarber/TDP.htm>

### **Review GOMA Midcourse Review:**

No additional discussion took place, for a copy of the EE section please go to: <http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/gomex/>

### **Upcoming Conferences**

(NSTA March 27-29, 2008, Boston, MA; NMEA July 21-24, 2008; Savannah, GA; ): For those UUP members who may be attending either of these upcoming conferences, please send a note to Greg Ira ([Greg.Ira@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Greg.Ira@dep.state.fl.us)) if you would like to meet at the conference or exchange ideas on sessions that will be relevant to the UUP Committee.

Public Input for Gulf Alliance.

Lee Yokel will be visiting states to do Scoping Meetings (3-4 hours) What the Alliance is and what is being done in EE and what should be done in EE over the next five years. Discussion will be broken down in to different categories: K-12; Professional Training; Non-Formal. Her tentative schedule is below:

- \* March 4 Louisiana
- \* March 11 Alabama
- \* March 19 Tampa, FL (Florida Aquarium)
- \* March 27 Naples, FL (Rookery Bay NERR)
- \* April 2 Mississippi
- \* April 8 Corpus Christi, TX
- \* April 10 Galveston, TX

**UUP Survey follow-up (Lee Yokel):**

Diane Austin of the University of Arizona has offered to have her grad students examine the results of the UUP survey as part of a class project.

We are waiting to see if there are any students that have taken on the project.

**Confirming call schedule:**

March 4th (10 am Central Time; 11 am Eastern) Every First Tuesday of the month.

**Ideas for the next calls:**

1. Confirm Membership in the Group
2. Identify new people who may be interested in the group
3. Identify items for discussion or interest for the calls and locate experts to address them.